

## **What is the proper approach to Jesus, our Lord and King?**

**Sermon by Pastor Diana J. Perkins**

**January 31, 2016**

**The morals and values that I was taught are not as prevalent today as when I was young. We were expected to respect elders, people in authority, our parents, the laws of the land and the American flag. Men opened doors for ladies and showed respect for them. We learned table manners and my dad's word was law in our house. The attitudes that we had also reflected in the way we thought about God. The Bible was the most precious book we had and we handled it with respect. We stood when the "Star Spangled Banner" was sung and when military soldiers marched by us in a parade. There seems to be less of this today, but though times change, customs change, the word of God does not change. Many people have no reverence for holy things or even consider God. Judges may order people who stand before them to wear proper clothing in their presence and they demand respect in the courtroom. There are rules for dress, manners and conduct when a person is in the presence of royalty or when they are visiting the White House. How much more should we know what God expects from us when we approach Him? The God of the Bible deserves and demands us to be obedient to his commandments. There remains a lack of reverence when it comes to the God of the universe, Jesus Christ. There are songwriters who don't take that into consideration when they write lyrics for today's music concerning God. People speak of God as if he is on the same level as they are. Not so! We will consider the ways in which people responded to God in Bible times. We can learn from their reverence and also from those who walked in rebellion against his holiness.**

**Look at Psalms 24. This Psalm speaks about the King of glory. David was an earthly king placed on the throne, chosen by God and anointed by Samuel, God's prophet. Yet he understood that God in heaven, the creator of all things rules the universe and has all power and authority. In this Psalm he begins by saying that the earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. Your spirit belongs to God and when death sets into your body; your spirit goes back to God who made it. In Ecclesiastes 12:7, King Solomon exhorts us to remember our Creator before bad things come your way. Don't wait for the heartaches of life to overcome you to think about God. Build a relationship with him before the storms of life fall upon you. Build your life on the Rock, Jesus Christ in the days of your youth and you will avoid many sorrows and regrets.**

**When your days on earth are done, the dust will return to the earth as it was and the spirit will return to God who gave it.**

**King David wrote that God founded this earth upon the seas and established it upon the waters. Then he asks a question which is this: “Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?”**

**The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol nor sworn deceitfully shall receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle, the LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Know who God is!**

**Psalms 100 tells us to make a joyful shout to the LORD all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations. If you continue to Psalm 101, you will see that King David knew that in order to have a relationship with the King of glory that he would need to conform to the standards of holiness that God set for those who love Him.**

**King David declared that he would sing of mercy and justice and sing praises to the LORD. Beginning with verse 2, he speaks about his responsibility to the LORD to behave wisely in a perfect way and then asks the question, “Or when will you come to me?” He said that when he walks in his house, he would have a perfect heart. He determined not to set any wicked thing before his eyes and he was focused on keeping his heart clear of any perverse thing or any wicked thing. In the CEV version here are his promises that he used to rule himself so that he could rule his kingdom in a godly manner.**

**He promised to sing to the LORD  
He would celebrate God’s kindness and his justice.**

**He asked God for help to learn to do the right thing and he promised to be fair and honest in his own kingdom.**

**He would refuse to be corrupt or take part in anything crooked and he would not be dishonest or deceitful. He would not listen to gossip and he would not make friends with those who were conceited. He would find trustworthy people to serve as his advisors and only an honest person would be chosen to serve as an official. Anyone who cheated or lied**

would be disqualified to hold a position in his royal court. He determined to bring lawbreakers to justice that he found in the countryside or in the city of the LORD.

David set an example for the people who were under his authority.

Every one of us who claim the name of Christ has a responsibility to live our lives in a way that brings honor and glory to God. What do people see when they watch you go about your daily routines? If a person followed you and mimicked you on a daily basis for a day, a week, or a month, would they be drawn to God by your conduct?

King David set some guidelines for his conduct and the blessing of God rested upon him. He gave proper respect to the King of Kings and LORD of lords.

There is an interesting story in Acts chapter 8 concerning Simon, the Sorcerer. Simon practiced witchcraft and claimed to be someone great. He lived in Samaria and had a lot of people believing that he had great spiritual powers. People all around Samaria were amazed at him and they crowded around him, both rich and poor. They were of the opinion that he was a man with power from God called "The Great Power." Simon held this title and reputation for a long time and won people's confidence. Suddenly Philip, a follower of Jesus Christ, came to town and began to preach Jesus Christ and worked miracles among the people. There were healings and demons were cast out and the Lord worked wonderful miracles through Philip. Philip preached the kingdom of God and many people believed on the Lord Jesus Christ through his ministry. Those who believed Philip's message were baptized in Jesus' name and even Simon believed and was baptized. See Acts 8:13. The Bible said that Simon stayed close to Philip because he marveled at all the miracles and wonders that he saw happen through the servant of God. The apostles back in Jerusalem heard that some people in Samaria had accepted God's message and they sent Peter and John. When the two apostles arrived, they prayed that the Holy Spirit would be given to those who had believed. The Holy Spirit had not been given to anyone in Samaria at this time though some of them had been baptized in Jesus name. Peter and John placed their hands on everyone who had faith in the Lord and they were given the Holy Spirit. Simon took note that only those to whom the apostles laid hands on received the gift of the Holy Spirit. He brought money and said to Peter and John, "Let me have this power too! Then anyone I place my hands on will also be given the Holy Spirit."

Peter said to him, "You and your money will both end up in hell if you think you can buy God's gift! You don't have any part in this and God sees that your heart isn't right. Get

rid of these evil thoughts and ask God to forgive you. I can see that you are jealous and bound by your evil ways.” Simon then asked Peter and John to pray for him so that what Peter said would not happen to him.

God looks at motives and he knows the hearts of people. When we communicate with God, He looks for humility. Psalms 51:17 is a Psalm that King David wrote after he had sinned against the Lord by committing adultery and murdering an innocent man to cover his sin. David realized that offerings and sacrifices were not what God was really looking for or wanted. God is pleased when a person truly feels remorse for his actions and changes his direction. God won't refuse to hear a prayer of repentance that reflects sorrow for sins. We find the same response when Samuel approached King Saul after King Saul had overstepped his position in sacrificing to the Lord when it was Samuel's responsibility. See 1 Samuel 13:8,9. Saul had been told to wait 7 days for Samuel before going to battle against the Philistines and he would come and offer a sacrifice for the army before the battle. Saul waited the 7 days, but Samuel didn't come just when Saul expected him, so Saul commanded his soldiers to bring an animal for him and he killed it and prepared to offer it as a sacrifice to the Lord so they could get to the business of fighting the battle. Before Saul had a chance to offer the animal on the altar, Samuel arrived and Saul went out to welcome him. Samuel asked him what he had done. King Saul gave all his reasons for making the wrong choice. The soldiers were leaving in all directions; the Philistines were getting their army together at Michmash and he was concerned that there would be an attack before the Israel army was ready; The offering to the Lord hadn't been completed and he accused Samuel of not coming when he was supposed to. He said he forced himself to do what he felt had to be done. Samuel told him that he did a very foolish thing. If he had obeyed God someone from his family would always have been king over Israel. But no, now that he had disobeyed God, God had rejected Saul as the king and someone from another family had been chosen already to replace him. If you follow this story to 1 Samuel 15, you will find that King Saul continued to disobey and follow his own inclinations even though he claimed to have followed the commandment of the Lord. He had his orders, but he mixed in his own judgments with what God had told him to do. Partial obedience is rebellion in the eyes of God. In verse 22 Samuel asked Saul, “Tell me, does the LORD really want sacrifices and offerings? NO, the Lord wants you to be obedient! Rebelling against God or disobeying him because you have pride in your heart is just as bad as worshipping idols or asking them for advice. Obedience is better than sacrifice!”

**In Luke 18:10, Jesus told a story of a Pharisee and a Publican to a group of people who thought they were better than others and who looked down on other people.**

**Two men went into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee prayed and thanked God that he was not greedy, dishonest and unfaithful in marriage. He was especially grateful that he wasn't like the tax collector who was standing a short distance away. He went on to say how that he fasted regularly and gave a tenth of all he earned to the Lord. The Publican stood off in a distance and didn't feel worthy of even drawing any closer to the temple or even to look up into heaven. He was so sorry for what he had done that he pounded on his chest and prayed, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Then Jesus said "When the two men left to go home, the publican was the one who pleased God. He left justified rather than the Pharisee for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."**

**Psalm 19:14 is a prayer of David that I have recited many times. "May the words of my mouth, the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight oh LORD, my Redeemer."**

**I encourage you to adopt that prayer as your own. God will hear and answer prayer.**